

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 275 without my signature.

While I strongly oppose patient dumping and believe those who engage in this behavior should be held accountable, I cannot support this bill. Hospitals already must meet specific discharge planning requirements and make appropriate arrangements for post-hospital care. Federal and state laws already provide sanctions, including potential loss of licensure and funding, against hospitals that violate licensing or certification requirements. Enforcement of existing laws is critical, however, additional penalties are premature.

Vigorous enforcement of existing requirements should be complemented by local planning efforts and coordinated service delivery. To that end, last year I signed legislation that requires hospitals to improve post-hospital transition of homeless patients. If this problem persists, in spite of current law and recently enacted requirements, legislation imposing additional penalties in the future may be appropriate.

For these reasons, I am returning SB 275 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger